

are simply making choices with their money about activities that they want to pursue. Their choices are no different from my deciding to spend my money on a good steak or my deciding to spend my money on a movie, same kind of personal choices. Far be it from me, says I, to pass judgment, to pass judgment on the simple issue of bingo. Well then I moved from bingo to pickles because I discovered that pickles are a common attribute to bingo games in Omaha and pickles are a form of paper slot machine. They take a little longer to play though than the ordinary slot machine because one has to rip the tabs off rather than pull down a handle, but they are prolific in Omaha. Lots of people rip the tabs off the pickles and they do it because they enjoy it. It is a form of entertainment. It does not harm their body like cigarette smoking does, like excessive use of alcohol does, like marijuana might, like cocaine would, like heroin certainly would. It is simply a conscious expenditure of their money for an activity that gives them pleasure. And again I say, far be it from me to pass judgment on that issue. Now I've gone to the horse tracks a couple of times as a friend of somebody else. I've never gone deliberately to play.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: And I discovered there are hundreds of people who are enjoying themselves in what clearly is an entertainment industry, having a good time, drinking beer, eating hot dogs, placing their bets, looking at the blue sheet, scratch sheet or whatever it is, looking at the odds and I end up walking away from that saying, wait a minute, this is not a moral wrong, it is not a sin. This is simply ordinary people enjoying themselves. So now I get down to the issue of the machines. Now we could be like the early, you know, there were some Luddites in the 18th Century who hated the industrial revolution in England and they thought the evil was the machines and so they went into the factories and they broke them all apart. They destroyed the machines, but it didn't stop the industrial revolution, it just made them feel good. Well the machines, the gambling machines, will not be placed in the bars until the people themselves are given a chance to vote as to whether or not they would like to have this in their society.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.